	SC/ST	Physically Handicapped
LPG	617	123
SKO	68	14
RO	482	111

Diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial use

2121. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG cylinders meant for domestic use on which high subsidy is given by Government, are being diverted for commercial use particularly by those selling cooked food in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, what mechanism has been evolved by Government in collaboration with the respective State/Union Territory administrations to check this misuse;

(c) whether any surprise checks have been conducted in the metropolitan cities to apprehend those indulging in such misuse, during the last three years;

(d) if so, the results thereof, city-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are under strict instructions to ensure that domestic cylinders are not used for commercial purpose. To check the same, the field officers carry out periodic refill audits besides making surprise visit to the commercial premises. In the event of diversion, the distributors are penalised in accordance with Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000. The District Administration is also empowered to take the necessary action against erring distributors in terms of LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000.

(c) to (e) The details of surprise checks/refill audits carried out by OMCs/other state agencies against the distributors and action taken

against them, during the last three years in four metros, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of surprise checks/refill audits carried out by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs)/other state agencies against the distributors and action taken against them during the last three years in four metros.

Name of Metro City	Number of surprise checks by OMCs & other agencies	Number of refill audits	Number of cylinders found diverted	Number of distributors
Delhi	104	840	26,030	114
Mumbai	905	484	816	39
Chennai	23	236	1,960	25
Kolkata	Nil	90	Nil	Nil

Task force on exploration of oil resources

2122. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a task force to add to the momentum to the exploitation of the country's gas resources;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the task force;

(c) whether Government are inviting foreign direct investment in the exploration and exploitation of gas reserves in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas and reserves to be subject to exploration and exploitation operations and the steps taken and being taken in that direction?